

Montana Arts Council

2009 Artist's Innovation Award for Visual Arts Application

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Form

1. Website address.

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2. Which primary medium best describes your artwork?

architecture and design

3. Describe what innovations you have made in your artwork and/or your process.

In 1995 I began a contemplative journey that forever changed how I understand the role and responsibility of architecture in relationship to society, culture and nature. The simple question that I began with was how could we so easily replace the awe-inspiring beauty of the natural landscape with such invasive man-made ugliness? In 2000 I completed a PhD that crossed-over between architecture, ecology, nature writing and philosophy. A few years later I recognized that my research was a precursor to the issue currently referred to as sustainability. Out of my research came both a position toward education and a personal direction for designing. I attempt to respond to my initial question by searching out fresh ways to bring people closer to recognizing themselves as part of the natural world. Design: My creative work is innovative through the contemporary architectural expressions of my buildings that sensitively respond to the natural world by considering qualities of place (sensorial aspects) and protection of the environment. I reject the nostalgic and often culturally regressive and environmentally devastating super-sized log cabins built in the rural west today, to instead arrive at innovative formal expressions that interweave the natural environment and historical vernacular with the most appropriate materials and technologies to create responses that are poetic and practical, timeless and timely. Writing: My writing is innovative, not in its style, but in its content. Books on architecture typically focus on the slick and urban. But I believed that there were great architects to discover in the middle of the United States, who could inspire and teach us through their work. Mockbee Coker: Thought and Process chronicles the practice of one such rural firm. Within a decade Samuel Mockbee received a MacArthur Genius Grant. I followed with two books that focus on helping people understand that alternative technologies can be incorporated into every day living in beautiful, contemporary homes. The OFF THE GRID books were the first to introduce these issues to the general reader. These books are a component of the progressive research I complete that filters into my design work and teaching. Teaching: I taught for over a decade through the conventional structure of universities. With the completion of my PHD research, and its focus on an alternative educational model, began my most challenging work. With the belief that we learn best, and gain long-lasting transformation, through first-hand experiences, I founded Artemis Institute in Park County, MT. The innovative program, taught twice a year, provides 12 university credits a semester. Architecture students live and learn, in a remote studio location along the Yellowstone River, through intensive explorations in their creative process, readings and discussions of environmental philosophy and sustainable construction, back county trips, and a community design / build program. From the Remote Studio program, the students learn of the interrelationship between nature and culture, and wildness and their creative process. The broader outcome of their work is a rural community-use structure that in-turn, teaches and inspires others.

4. Describe how the artwork samples you submitted illustrate the evolution of your work.

My work is a continuous journey into the possibilities of architecture brought on by the practice of imagining what could be. It evolves through equal parts formal exploration, and material and technological research. Each project below builds upon the previous, evolving the expression of place through sustainable means of construction. The Graham Grant Horse Shelter projects, completed almost 10 years ago, were the first designs I completed in Montana. They were built with the support of several of my students on donated property that acted as a gallery because it was visible from the road. These two pieces taught me about local materials and how to respond sensitively to the landscapes in which they were built. My overall intent was not only for me to learn, but also that the work serve to introduce the surrounding rural community to contemporary responses in a rural and wild place. The Hall Residence is designed to appear as outbuildings on the landscape, while having a contemporary loft interior. This project is the first enclosed structure completed with local material expression and green materials. Reclaimed, recycled, harvested and newly developed materials were combined to make this highly efficient home and studio. Because local builders were unfamiliar with the contemporary formal expression and green materials of this project, my design partnership evolved into a design/build studio to build the project. The material innovations are too many to list, a high-light includes wood post-and-beams and siding cut from standing-dead trees within 7 miles of the build site, brought out of the forest by draught horse and milled locally. The RN House is designed to appear and disappear in the rising folds of the grassland hills in which it rests. The houses situation further supports my evolved belief that it is better to place a house in the least desirable location and improve upon it, than locate it in the most beautiful location. For this reason the house was sited in an old cattle waddle that had eroded the earth. The houses collection of rainwater and grey water serves to re-vegetate the natural grassland. A photo-voltaic system incorporated in a sculptural way demonstrates that technology can be both practical and beautiful. The Wapiti projects edgy expression is intended to match the strength, beauty and power of the surrounding landscape. The pieces of the house are designed to appear as a collection of rocks and shadows on this wild, open landscape. An innovative 67 foot long rammed earth wall built of the earth from foundation excavation is the primary figural feature of the home. Experienced both inside and out, this house does not allow its inhabitant to forget that they live in a wild place. Most recent, are my pre-fab cabins designed to provide its inhabitants solace, while being green, off the grid, affordable and light on the land. These are lean designs for lean times. With no permanent concrete foundation, they allow inhabitants to truly leave no trace upon the land once removed.

5. Regarding public access to your work and artwork, describe a low-cost or no-cost activity to take place during the grant cycle that will convey your innovative work and artwork to other Montanans.

I would like to share my work with the Park County community. While my design, teaching and writing is a recognized across the nation, too few people know about it within my own locale. I believe the best way to do this is through a lecture, or two at the Livingston Public Library. This activity would be virtually cost free. The community room is free to reserve. The costs would be advertising the event (most of which would be free), and perhaps some refreshments (perhaps I could get a sponsor.)

6. I certify I am a resident of the state of Montana and a Citizen of the United States. (Residency requires having lived in Montana for at least one full year prior to the application deadline.)

Yes

7. I am at least 18 years old.

Yes

8. I am not currently a degree-seeking student (graduate or undergrad) and will not be during the grant period (July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010).

Yes

9. Permission to reprint. I permit MAC to reproduce my artwork images to use for publicity and informational purposes.

Yes

10. I certify that all appropriate release rights were obtained for my artwork. Where applicable, I certify that all appropriate photo rights and permissions have been obtained with regard to images of children's faces associated with recognizable landmarks.

Yes

- 11. I am not on the Montana Arts Council staff or a member of its current governing body, nor am I connected to them by one degree of relationship by blood, marriage or household.**

Yes

- 12. I certify that all information I have provided is true and understand that submitting this application is the date of consent.**

Yes



"RN Residence - Western Interiors Magazine"

na
na
2005

(Document)



"Wapiti Project - Western Interiors Magazine"

na
na
2006

(Document)



"click cabin_project"

1500 sq ft
stone and wood
2009



"Graham Grant Shelter - 1_2000"

24 l x 16 ft high
steel and reclaimed redwood
2000

a contemporary exploration in responding to a specific landscape with sustainable materials.



"Graham Grant Shelter - 2_2000"

open shed
flyash concrete, locally milled Doug fir and sod
2000

a contemporary exploration in responding to a specific landscape with sustainable materials.



"Hall exterior_2002"

1600 sq ft
wood , steel and concrete
2002

built of locally harvested and milled doug fir, recycled denim insulation, concrete floor, wheat board cabinetry, reclaimed wood for cabinetry, reclaimed door hardware, collected stone and drift wood from yellowstone river, natural plaster walls and locally crafted steel connections and railings.



"Hall interior_2002"

1600 sq ft
wood, steel and concrete
2002

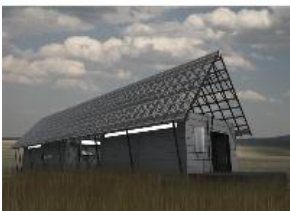
view of a main interior of house, with locally harvested and milled post and beam structure. The bedroom is in the second floor loft. The loft is built in the style of a vernacular corn crib, light weight and airy. The concrete floor has an energy efficient radiant heat system.



"Hill Country Project_2009"

3,000 sq ft
stone, steel and panels
2009

The project will use many sustainable and green materials as well as a photo-voltaic system to generate 100 percent of its energy. Efficient appliances will be incorporated to reduce the energy loads. Large cisterns will collect rain water for use in watering the landscape.



"Montana Prefab_2008"

840 sq ft
steel, polycarbonate and reclaimed wood frame
2008

The first pre-fab project designed specifically for Montana. It is a one bedroom that is less than 900 sq ft . Metal siding, icynene insulation, reclaimed wood roof structure, composting toilet, green interior finishes, covered roof deck and outside breezeway allow more outside time for more of the year. The foundation is an impermanent footing that is augered into the ground.



"Remote Studio 2001"

open frame
douglas fir
2001

A wind shelter for horses designed and constructed by Remote Studio at the B-Bar Ranch in Tom Miner Basin, Park County. It is built of locally harvested doug fir from the ranch that the students milled themselves.



"Remote Studio 2003"

open frame, 50 feet long
douglas fir
2003

A sun and wind shelter for horses designed and built on North Star Ranch by Remote Studio. It is built of locally harvested and milled douglas fir.



"Remote Studio 2006-1"

1600 sq ft
douglas fir and steel frame
2006

The Pince Creek Group Pavliion is built for the National Forest Service in the historic CCC campground in Park County. It is the first ever cooperative student built project, constructed of sustainable materials in the National Forest Service program. It is built of harvested standing dead, that the students milled with Matt Ridgeway, steel that they welded themselves, reclaimed concrete pavers, harvested local stone and rammed earth wall. It is hand-cap accessible and holds 50 people.



"Remote Studio 2006-2"

1600 sq ft
douglas fir and steel frame
2006

Pine Creek Pavilion, see previous description



"Remote Studio 2008f"

open air structure
wood, willow, steel
2008

A reflection point built along the Yellowstone River for a new primitive trail system for the City of Livingston by Remote Studio. Materials include reclaimed steel for frame, reclaimed rock screen for walking deck, harvested woven willow, reclaimed wood for picture wall. All materials were walked onto the site to minimize site damage.



"RN House 1_2005"

2000 sq ft
wood, metal and other green materials
2005

RN House, is designed to see, but not be seen as it nestles into the low grass land hills in Park County. 2000 sq ft. Local wood siding and interior. Natural plaster walls, radiant concrete floors, certified wood floors, reclaimed redwood and stone counters and fixtures, passive heating and cooling, green house in the kitchen for year round vegetables, rainwater cisterns and grey water release for watering the surrounding grass and perennials. 1.6 kw photo voltaic array.



"RN House 2_2005"

2000 sq ft
green materials
2005

see previous description. View from the south shows greenhouse wall, and windows for passive heating and cooling.



"Signor Prefab 1_2009"

less than 1,000 sq ft
certified wood siding, certified wood structural s
2009

The second pre-fab project designed as a kit of parts that can be connected together to create different arrangements. Parts include: living volume, bedroom volume, decks, pitched decks, screen porch room. All pieces would be fabricated off site and set down on a pier system that is augered into the ground and that can be removed when the house is relocated. Designed to be fully off the grid, with green materials, inside and out.



"Signor Prefab 2_2009"

less than 1000 sq ft
interior green finishes
2009

A second configuration of the Pre-Fab house project. This project was deisgned in early 2009, production is expected within the next 12 months.



"Wapiti House 1_2006"

3600 sq ft (including guest house)
wood, steel and rammed earth
2006

Located in the Wapiti Valley in Wyoming, this house is built of many green materias including rammed earth, standing seam steel, paperstone, radaint concrete floors, certified siding and panels and a custom steel frame.



"Wapiti House 2_2006"

3600 sq ft
as noted
2006

The view of the house living area from the mountains. rammed earth wall beyond.



"lori ryker cv 2009 MAC"

na
na
2009

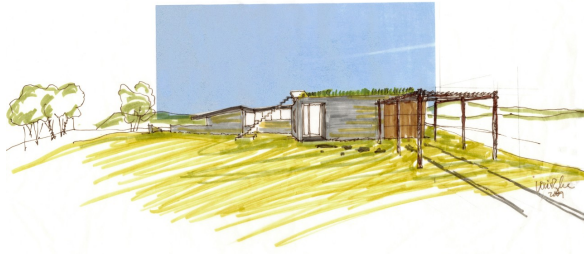
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"MAC artists statement"

na
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2009

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"click cabin_project"



"Graham Grant Shelter - 1_2000"



"Graham Grant Shelter - 2_2000"



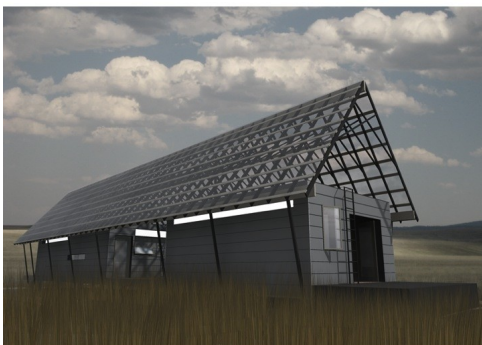
"Hall exterior_2002"



"Hall interior_2002"



"Hill Country Project_2009"



"Montana Prefab_2008"



"Remote Studio 2001"



"Remote Studio 2003"



"Remote Studio 2006-1"



"Remote Studio 2006-2"



"Remote Studio 2008f"



"RN House 1_2005"



"RN House 2_2005"



"Signor Prefab 1_2009"



"Signor Prefab 2_2009"



"Wapiti House 1_2006"



"Wapiti House 2_2006"